

Prior law provided for composition of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Provides that the parishes of Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist shall compose the fifth circuit. Further provided that the parish of Jefferson shall compose the first district of the fifth circuit. The parish of St. James and that portion of St. John the Baptist Parish east of the Mississippi River shall compose the second district of the fifth circuit. The parish of St. Charles and that portion of St. John the Baptist Parish west of the Mississippi River shall compose the third district of the fifth circuit.

New law divides the first district composed of the parish of Jefferson into two election sections with certain precincts in each section.

Prior law provided that the fifth circuit shall be composed of eight judges. New law retains prior law but provides that the first vacancy created by the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of a judge of the first district occurring after 8/15/07, shall be filled by election from election section two of the first district and such judgeship shall be assigned to election section two of the first district for election purposes thereafter. New law further provides that if no election has occurred or is scheduled to occur to fill a vacancy in such a judgeship from election section two prior to the opening of qualifying for the regular statewide elections in 2012, the regular election to fill the judgeship designated as Division G of the first district shall be held in election section two of the first district and such division shall be assigned to election section two for election purposes thereafter.

New law provides that it shall become effective upon the entering by the court of a written consent judgment expressing agreement of the parties and settlement of claims in the matter entitled *Henry Williams, et al. v. Fox McKeithen, et al.*, No. 05-1180, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, in which such consent judgment the parties agree to the implementation of the provisions of the new law.

Effective August 15, 2007.

(Amends R.S. 13:312(5) and 312.1(E))